



# LANA NEWS

Llama Association of North America  
Late Summer Edition 2023



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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Llama Friends,

How has your summer been? It seems to go by too quickly. Crazy weather has been hitting most of the United States. I hope you and your loved ones are safe.

BOD Lee Beringsmith and friends represented llamas at the Library Day at the Yuba County Library. Lee has arranged for camelids and their owners to be a part of the Great American River Clean-Up later this month. In this annual event, volunteers collect garbage along the American River parkway in the Sacramento and Fair Oaks area.

LANA hosted the California State Fair Llama & Alpaca Show. You can check out the results and pictures in our previous newsletter dedicated to the show.

LANA hosted four performance play days. Starting in June, the monthly training and practice sessions provided a variety of obstacles for the participants. People shared their training techniques and gave helpful hints. It was also a nice chance to connect with friends.

A fiber clinic is scheduled for November 4th in Vacaville, CA, taught by BOD Margaret Drew. More information will be eblasted and on LANA's website.

Sadly, the llama community lost three of its members. Our thoughts and prayers go to the families of Steve Katzakian, Glen Stabelfeld, and Beula Williams.

Kathy Nichols  
LANA President



## LANA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Please contact the LANA Business Office for Member Services, Advertisements, Event Calendar updates, and any llama-, alpaca-, or LANA-related questions you may have.

Visit LANA at: [www.lanainfo.org](http://www.lanainfo.org)

## LANA News DISCLAIMER

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## THANK YOU for CONTRIBUTING

**Thank you** to the following for their contribution to this newsletter:

Michele Aranda Berlin, Lee Beringsmith, Virginia Christensen, Jocelyn Katzakian, Rhyannon Moore-Foster, DVM PhD, Nina Pedersen, Joy Pedroni, Sue Rich, RMLA, Andrea Stabelfeld Ullman, and Dylan Thomas, DVM

## Editors Note:

In this newsletter, read an article about West Nile Virus by Colorado State University. There are two older articles: using fiber to soak up spilled oil in the Gulf and Llama Ethics and Mentoring. Enjoy pictures from LANA's Performance Playdays and Llama Day at the Library. Read the "In Memory" articles about the three members our llama community who have recently passed.

Have you thought about writing an article for the newsletter or do you have an idea for one? Is there something going on in your neck of the woods you would like to share? Contact LANA. I'm always searching for stories and articles. If you would like your event added to the calendar, let us know.

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## **GREAT AMERICAN RIVER CLEAN-UP**

**September 23, 2023**

**Exact location TBA**

**Sacramento, California**

**contact: [lbering@outlook.com](mailto:lbering@outlook.com)**

## **ALSA WESTERN REGIONALS**

**September 30 - October 1, 2023**

**Lancaster, California**

**contact: [labendeira@yahoo.com](mailto:labendeira@yahoo.com)**

## **2023 GATHERING OF FRIENDS AND CHAMPIONS**

**Show, Sale & Futurity**

**October 6 - 8, 2023**

**Iowa Equestrian Center**

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

**[www.ilrsdthegathering.com](http://www.ilrsdthegathering.com)**

## **OREGON FLOCK & FIBER FESTIVAL**

**October 14 - 15, 2023**

**Linn County Fairgrounds & Expo Center**

**Albany, Oregon**

**contact: [llamacollections@msn.com](mailto:llamacollections@msn.com)**

## **GOLD COUNTRY GATHERING & CALIFORNIA CLASSIC ALPACA SHOW**

**October 27 - 28, 2023**

**Glenn County Fairgrounds**

**Orland, California**

**contact: [russmello46@gmail.com](mailto:russmello46@gmail.com)**

## **LANA YOUTH WRITING & ART CONTEST**

**Deadline November 1, 2023**

**contact: [susan.rich9631@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rich9631@gmail.com)**

## **NORTH AMERICAN LLAMA & ALPACA SHOW**

**November 3 - 5, 2023**

**Louisville, Kentucky**

**[www.northamericanllamasow.com](http://www.northamericanllamasow.com)**

## **LANA FELTING CLINIC**

**November 4, 2023**

**Stonehenge Llama Ranch**

**Vacaville, California**

**contact: [anaquestions@gmail.com](mailto:anaquestions@gmail.com)**

## **ALSA GRAND NATIONALS - 25th Anniversary**

**November 10 - 12, 2023**

**Kirkwood Equestrian Center**

**Cedar Rapids, Iowa**

**[www.alsashow.net](http://www.alsashow.net)**

## **\* LANA HOBO CLASSIC SHOW**

**February 2 - 4, 2024**

**Merced County Fairgrounds**

**Merced, California**

**contact: [anaquestions@gmail.com](mailto:anaquestions@gmail.com)**

**Bold type** denotes LANA sponsored events

\* (asterik) denotes discount for LANA members

## **Mission Statement:**

Established in 1981, the Llama Association of North America (LANA), serves the camelid community by sponsoring medical research specific to llamas and alpacas; providing current and accurate information about camelid health and care; advocating for pro-camelid legislation and access to public lands; encouraging, educating and mentoring camelid enthusiasts of all ages in their interactions with camelids; supporting rescue for camelids in distress; and hosting a variety of activities including youth programs, hiking trips, shows, parades, fiber clinics, educational events and more.

# Stephen Katzakian



We are all heartbroken to say that Stephen Katzakian lost his fight to cancer on the 11th of July, 2023, early in the morning in the comfort of his own home. He was surrounded by his loving wife, Michelle, of 34 years, and his two daughters, Jocelyn and Emma. Stephen put up a good fight against his cancer for over four and a half years, defying his doctors' predictions and impressing us all with his grace and resilience through it all. He kept his sense of humor until the very end. Stephen will be remembered as a faithful and loving husband, caring father, charismatic brother and devoted friend. Stephen gave the most enthusiastic bear hugs and had the loudest, most contagious laugh that could be heard for miles. He was affectionately known as "The Llama Guy" and could often be found surrounded by his beloved animals or out in the community sharing his passion with 4-H kids and the show community. He was a long-time member of Faith Episcopal Church, where he was an usher and member of the Video Team. He attended the Air Force Academy and enjoyed a career in the computer industry. His vibrant buoyant personality brought joy to his friends and family, and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

Dad, you are already so missed by all of us. You were an amazing Dad, and so loving. Your love and kindness for everyone was inspiring. I will miss your laugh and hugs the most. Thank you for sharing your love of animals with me, it led me to where I am now. I love you so much. Rest in peace Daddy.

~ Jocelyn Katzakian

# Glen Stabelfeld



Glen Stablefeld, age 92, passed away peacefully on June 23rd in Hughson, CA. Born and raised in Iowa and he worked on the family farm. He played baseball on scholarship in college and was inducted into the Buena Vista University Hall of Fame in Iowa. After serving in the US Army, he resumed his baseball career. He played professionally as a pitcher with the Saint Louis Cardinals (mostly) and Boston Red Sox franchises for eight years. (He even played winter league in Venezuela). After finishing his baseball career, he became a teacher. He taught History and Drivers' Education, and coached baseball and basketball. He taught for thirty years. He substitute taught many years after his retirement.

Glen loved spending time with his family, wife Joretta of 68 years and five children and their families (seven grandchildren and nine great grandchildren). He enjoyed fishing, hunting and boating. The family had a houseboat on Lake McClure where there were many family get-togethers water skiing and jet skiing.

After Glen retired in 1992, he and his wife moved to Hughson and established Willow Glen Ranch. He shared his love of animals with Jo. They raised cattle, miniature donkeys and llamas. Their oldest granddaughter, Andrea, showed llamas in the Youth and Open Division. Glen decided he wanted to show as well. And he did quite well. He earned Master Showman and Premier Exhibitor at the California State Fair. They primarily showed in northern California and Nevada.

# Beula Williams



Beula Williams passed away peacefully, at the age of 93. Beula had a long and abundant life filled with many adventures. She was born Beula Arnold in Salem, Oregon, the middle sister to Mary and Lorna. Her parents, Lloyd and Iris, raised an active and creative child growing up during the Depression and World War II. In high school, she met the love of her life James Williams. They married at age 19 and in 1949 moved together to California to pursue their dreams.

Beula and Jim raised their five children in Petaluma, California.

Beula was not only a loving mother and wife but was also the creative force behind the successful stores in Sonoma County that she owned with Jim: The Village Shops, and The Calico Cat, and one with her son Tom, The Apple Box.

In the mid 1970's Beula was inspired to start raising llamas, being one of the first to import them into the US. Her passion and dedication to the animals became her focus. Her original band of llamas blossomed into Big Trees Llama Farm in Valley Ford, California.

Beula channeled her creative spirit into the land and old farmhouse making Valley Ford their home for decades. Beula hand spun llama wool and was a dedicated knitter.

She created works of art through her hand-knitted sweaters, hats, and scarves. Selling her goods became a perfect fit for their country lifestyle. The roadside attraction of Big Trees Llama farm was well known around Sonoma County and to countless travelers to the coast. In 2016 Beula and Jim retired to Petaluma enjoying a simpler life.

Preceded in death by her husband James in 2021, Beula leaves behind her beloved younger sister Mary, her children Dan (Emily), Tom (Caroline), Brian (Lynda), Andy (Shana), and Brenda (Laura), 11 grandchildren and 13 great grandchildren.

Beula and Jim will be laid to rest together in a private ceremony at the Two Rock Presbyterian Church graveyard where they no doubt will still be enjoying the fresh air and beautiful rolling hills. Rest in Peace Beula, it's been a wonderful inspiring ride! Thanks to the support from Two Rock Church, the quilting group, and the many friends that supported Beula in her life and her art.

# Llama Day at the Library

by Lee Beringsmith

On July 8th, I took llamas to the Yuba County Library in Marysville. Thanks to Jana and Mike Kane for joining Dolly and me. There was a great turnout of young "Llama Llama" book fans and parents. Tables were set up with llama pictures to color and llama crafts. The library staff is amazing - so friendly and helpful. What a fun way to spend a Saturday morning with llamas and children. It always makes me feel good to share these magical animals and I love to encourage young people to read.





# West Nile Virus Overview in Camelids

by Dylan Thomas, DVM and Rhyannon Moore-Foster, DVM PhD  
Colorado State University Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Livestock Services

In 2023, across Colorado and Wyoming specifically, CSU has observed a rise in incidence of West Nile Virus (WNV) both among equine (horses) and camelids (the majority being alpacas). A general hypothesis accepted for this trend is the abnormally increased rainfall during the spring season leading to a rise in mosquito population and, therefore, an increased risk to people and livestock for contracting WNV. The purpose of this short article is to highlight the disease and to inform the camelid community that WNV is still a concern within the population, although a low one. By no means are we recommending going out and vaccinating entire herds, but if incidence of WNV is rising in your area, vaccination may be considered with the help your veterinarian.

## **Background:**

WNV is common nomenclature, especially during summer months, that likely all of us have heard over the last twenty years. After the first confirmation of WNV in the United States in the late 1990s, yearly occurrence comes and goes, but is made obvious to the public generally through confirmed cases. This is usually relayed via news sources, notifying people of human or equine positive cases along with alarming warnings against mosquitoes and measures to control the mosquito population.

WNV is maintained in a constant cycle through two main reservoirs: mosquitoes and birds. The cycle is maintained across the United States year-by-year via migration of infected birds which can then transmit to non-infected mosquitoes. Therefore, the virus is conserved yearly, which is why we have seen WNV each year since its introduction.

Infected mosquitoes transmit WNV to animals via a bite. Once bitten, the virus enters the bloodstream and starts circulating, medically coined a “viremia.” This viremia lasts a short time in most animals creating mild signs of general lethargy (lack of energy or weakness). Luckily, other than the bird, animals do not have a significant enough viremia to transmit the virus; in other words, if you or your animal contracts WNV, you are not contagious. In a small percentage of animals, the virus can enter the central nervous system (CNS) creating varying degrees of neurologic signs.

Camelids, historically, appear to be less susceptible to clinical disease via WNV than horses and birds (and humans). Since there has been low incidence, there is very limited data on WNV in camelids.

## **Disease in Camelids:**

In a serological (blood) study performed in 2003 on the front range of Colorado, it was demonstrated that up to 80% of the camelids during that season had serological evidence of WNV (without clinical signs of disease). This data supports that fact that there is a short period of viremia (virus in the bloodstream) that may result in mild clinical signs of lethargy, but not severe clinical disease. During this viremic period, antibodies are formed by the body’s immune system against WNV. When this occurs, the body forms a natural immunity to the virus that can reduce the incidence and severity of disease if subsequently exposed.

**Clinical Signs:**

Most infections with WNV do not result in serious illness. When clinically ill, the general clinical sign is coined neurologic. The clinical signs can include lethargy, inappetence, ataxia (incoordination), weakness, head/neck tremors, fasciculations, opisthotonos (neck extending up and over back), convulsions or paddling, and recumbency (going down).

Clinical severity can be divided into three main categories: mildly, moderately, and severely affected. Mildly affected animals tend to remain standing and eating, but can be lethargic, weak, mildly ataxic, and have tremors. Disease usually lasts up to two weeks, but mildly affected animals usually have a complete recovery. Moderately affected animals show similar signs but are even weaker to the point of recumbency. They can usually remain in a normal cushed position and eat/drink as long as offered within reach. Recovery in the moderately affected group is prolonged and can take a month or more to completely recover. Severely affected animals have rapid onset of clinical signs that progress to recumbency and convulsions. These animals are generally euthanized or pass due to respiratory arrest despite treatment.

**Diagnosis:**

A diagnosis can be achieved two ways: diagnosis of exclusion or confirmatory diagnostics. A diagnosis of exclusion means that clinical signs observed are compatible with the disease, some diagnostics are compatible with the disease, and other causes of disease have been excluded. There are two main confirmatory diagnostics that can be submitted to a referral laboratory. The first is called RT-PCR which finds and amplifies genetic material to find the virus within either blood or cerebrospinal fluid (CSF). The other main confirmatory diagnostic test is an antibody neutralization assay which detects antibodies against the virus within the blood or CSF.

The confirmatory tests can also be performed postmortem combined with histologic evidence of disease to achieve a diagnosis via necropsy.

**Treatment:**

There is no known treatment for WNV, aside from general supportive care. A veterinarian should be consulted prior to any treatment being administered. General considerations for supportive care include CNS inflammation mitigation (i.e., steroids, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs [NSAIDs], etc.), antioxidant medications (i.e., vitamin A/D/E, etc.), reduction of muscle pain/spasm (i.e., NSAIDs, benzodiazepine, etc.), pain management (i.e., opioids), and administration of WNV antibody positive plasma.

Generally, treatment is unrewarding unless clinical disease is observed early, the animal has been previously exposed, and intense nursing care is implemented. Severity and time of clinical signs can be prognostic indicators to decide if treatment is warranted versus humane euthanasia.

**Prevention:**

Since WNV is transmitted via mosquito, the main prevention strategy is to reduce the risk of being bitten by a mosquito. This may include fly/mosquito spray, reducing standing water on/near property, and city-wide efforts to reduce the population of mosquitoes locally.

An additional preventative strategy to consider is vaccination. There is not an approved WNV vaccine for camelids, but there is in horses. Data for efficacy of the vaccine is limited and from the early 2000s, but the data does suggest that vaccination can create a humoral immune

response to the virus. The general recommendation for vaccination is two to three doses administered three to four weeks apart. Bear in mind that any vaccination could have an adverse effect on breeding animals within 30 days of copulation or parturition. If vaccination is pursued, please contact your veterinarian and/or Colorado State University (CSU) Livestock Medicine and Surgery Service for complete recommendations/guidelines.

### ***To Vaccinate or Not to Vaccinate***

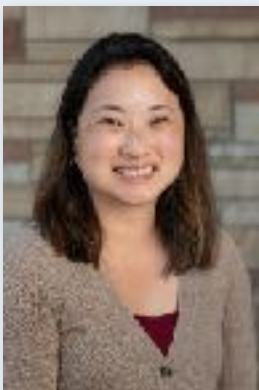
The incidence of clinically severe WNV is generally low, but the incidence of subclinical WNV is generally high. This means that the majority of camelids have been exposed to WNV and will likely have developed antibodies against the virus. The antibodies that have been generated naturally, due to exposure, will act as a defense against the virus if exposed to WNV in the future. This antibody response should reduce clinical signs and mortality. In the previously mentioned serological study, up to 80% of camelids surveyed had antibodies naturally due to exposure. Therefore, in the great majority of incidences, natural immunity to WNV should be achievable without vaccination in normal conditions.

### **Conclusion:**

WNV is endemic (naturally occurring) in the mosquito and bird populations of the United States. Clinical disease of WNV has become important in the camelid industry across the country. While disease progression in most cases is minimal, there is risk of developing severe clinical disease that manifests as severe neurologic symptoms that can easily become fatal. Among strategies to mitigate disease from WNV is vaccination with an equine labeled product. Although we do not know the true efficacy of these products and the amount of immunity that they will bring, the vaccines are generally tolerated after administration in camelids.

### **About the authors**

Dylan Thomas, DVM, is an intern for the Livestock Medicine and Surgery Service at Colorado State University. He attended Texas A&M University where he received an undergraduate degree in animal science and then Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine where he received his Doctor of Veterinary Medicine (DVM). He is originally from North Texas and has a passion for beef cattle, although he also enjoys practicing medicine on small animals, equine, small ruminants, and camelids.



Rhyannoon Moore-Foster, DVM, is currently an Assistant Professor at Colorado State University in the ambulatory Livestock Field Service. She graduated from Michigan State University's veterinary school in 2013 then completed a PhD there in 2018 with an emphasis in mastitis and employee education. She has also spent time in private practice working on a variety of species including livestock, small animals and exotics. Her interests include reproduction and herd health as they relate to production medicine.

**LANA**  
*Youth Writing  
&  
Art Contest*



*LANA invites youth members of all ages to submit an article on any camelid-related topic of interest to the youth. Younger members (11 years and younger) are also invited to submit a piece of original artwork.*

*Written pieces should be 1000 words or less with four pictures or less. If completed on the computer, written pieces should be written in Times New Roman 12 point font and double-spaced, with the author's name on each page in the header. Pictures or scanned artwork should be submitted as .jpeg files with a resolution of at least 300 dpi. The content should be the original work of the youth. Written pieces and scanned artwork should be submitted electronically to Sue Rich at [susan.rich9631@gmail.com](mailto:susan.rich9631@gmail.com).*

*One winner from each of the four age categories (sub-junior; junior; intermediate; and senior) may be selected twice a year.*

**Submission due: November 1st**

**May 1st**

*Winners will receive a \$25 cash prize and written pieces and artwork will be published in the LANA Newsletter and posted on the LANA website.*

# LANA Performance Playdays

LANA hosted four performance playdays in Wilton, California. The events gave participants a chance to prepare for the several shows during summer and the big shows at the end of the show season. Over thirty obstacles were set up for training and practice each playday. Most were adjustable to suit the animal's ability level.





Water obstacles were popular on the hot days: pool, kids' splash mat, and a hanging sprinkler. A variety of back-ups, jumps, side pass, obstacles to stand in or on, step overs, and duck thrus and unders were used - a little bit of everything.





The animals' ability levels ranged from youngsters first time off the ranch and first year rookies to the well-seasoned advanced animals.





Participation varied. The biggest turnout was 17 people and 19 animals. Some enjoyed it so much, they attended each playday.







Joy offered her van to practice loading. She gave helpful hints on how to get the animals to load and self-load. She and Stephanie brought a container of accessories to share with the group. There were many boas, scarves, hats, decorative headbands, tutus, and items that glittered. Great practice for the Public Relations classes.





Participants helped each other giving training tips, suggestions and sharing what works for them. There was a lot of good information exchanged.



Taking a break in the shade of the big oak tree, people and animals relaxed, rehydrated, snacked and visited with each other.





Get together with a group of your friends and take turns hosting a performance playday. What a great opportunity for your llama and/or alpaca to train and practice on a variety of obstacles in a different setting.



# The World of LANA

It's a Family Affair . . .



. . . It's Educational . . .



. . . It's Research . . .



LANA  
is about  
people . . .



. . . and lamas

## LANA is about fun!

3966 Estate Drive  
Vacaville, CA. 95688

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# LANA HOBO CLASSIC



**ALSA Single Halter & Performance Show**

**February 2 -4, 2024**

**Merced County Fairgrounds, Merced, CA**

**Judge: TBA**



**SHOW SUPERINTENDENT:** Kathy Nichols

**SHOW SECRETARY:** Joy Pedroni

**FACILITY:** Merced County Fairgrounds  
900 Martin Luther King Jr Way  
Merced, CA 95341

**ARRIVAL:** Arrival time for all exhibitors is  
anytime on Friday, February 2nd

**SHOW SCHEDULE:** **Saturday - February 3rd**

**8:00 am** Driving Classes

Exhibitors' Meeting

Performance Classes

**6:00 pm** Hobo Dinner

Annual LANA Membership Meeting

Annual LANA Awards

Introduction of 2023 LANA Board

Dessert Auction

**Sunday - February 4th**

**8:30 am** Showmanship

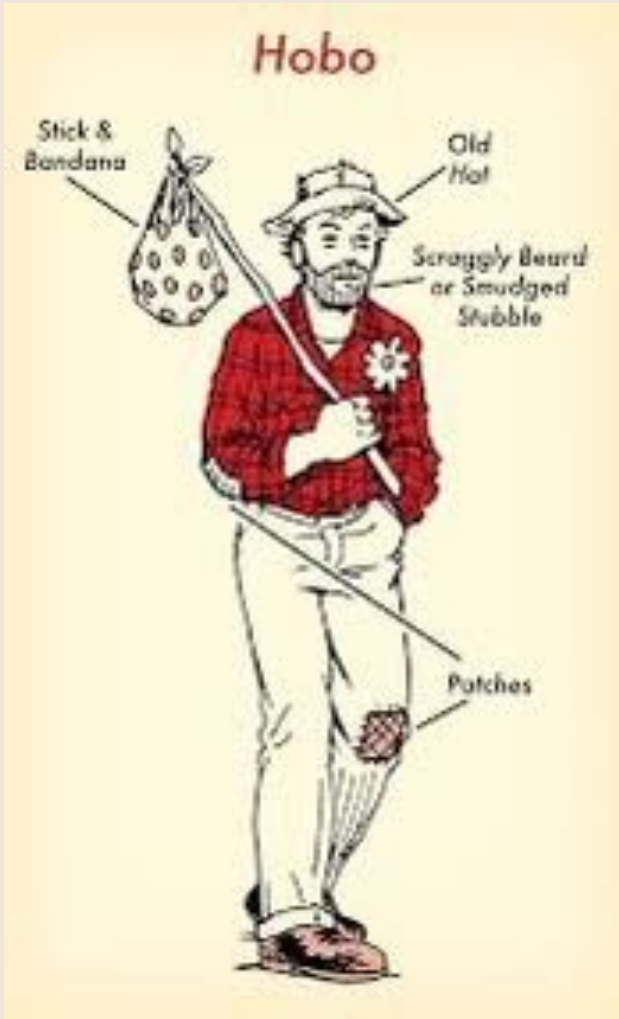
Halter Classes

Best in Show Llama & Alpaca





**NO Groom Show**  
**Relaxed & Casual Atmosphere**  
**Family Friendly**  
**Lots of Fun**  
**Hobo attire suggested**



# **SCLA Members Respond to the Call for Fiber to Fight the Gulf Oil Spill**

## **by Karen Conyngham, SCLA Membership Secretary**

*article reprinted from LANA Newsletter 2010 Summer Edition*

*A brief history about the Gulf Oil Spill:*

*Operated by BP, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill is known to be one of the largest environmental disasters in the world and the largest marine oil spill in history.*

On May 2, the Michigan Llama Association's wool committee member, Deb Macauley, sent out an email to all llama association newsletter exchange members reminding us of the need for fiber of all types to make hair-filled oil absorption mats to help in the cleanup in the Gulf of Mexico,

I forwarded the information on via email to the members of the South Central Llama Association, since our shearing season is now underway. The response was immediate and in addition, two of our members got coverage on local TV stations for their environmental concern and their llamas!

Sandra Reynolds, in Bokchito, OK, was visited by reporter Maddie Garrett of station KXII and nearly two minutes of video was aired on that channel on May 6th. Sandra explained why we shear llamas, and nice close-ups were taken of her doing barrel and full body cuts. The photographer also got great shots of some of Sandra's llamas and her ranch. This year, Sandra is sending all her clippings to Matter of Trust instead of having it spun or put to other textile use. As of the day the reporter visited, Sandra had sent 300 pound of clean short fiber to a collection point in Louisiana and she still has more llamas to shear.

Ms. Garrett explained the way the llama fiber will be used:

"The mats are used to help clean the oil off of contaminated animals and beaches. And the booms are cylinder-shaped mesh buoys filled with the fibers that contain and soak up the oil in the water."

So as Reynolds shears, cuts and collects her llamas' fluffy fur, her donations will soon help absorb the growing environmental problem.

"It's a fun chore, but it's great to be able to help out with something like this," said Reynolds. "It's important, and there was an immediate need; and I had it available, so just...doing whatever you can do to help out."

The same day, I received an email from our past SCLA president, Steve Berry, who lives in Granary TX. Steve does shearing for other ranches as his own herd. He had just hosted an open house and shearing day at Berry Acres Llamas on May 2nd and



had 25 fleeces on hand, which yielded over 200 pounds of fiber. He, too, sent that fiber off to New Orleans for the fiber collection drive.

Steve and his wife Joni were visited at their ranch on May 6th by TV station WFAA in Ft. Worth after the reporter read a short item about Steve and his fiber donation in the Hood County News. Their televised segment showed Steve shearing one of his llamas, Candy Cane, and explaining that llama fiber has no oil or lanolin, which makes it a great absorbent.

The interview also gave viewers information on the large number of llamas in north Texas, the various uses for your llamas, and emphasized the importance of shearing all llamas to keep them cool during the hot Texas summers. It also showed Steve and Joan's ranch, and their llamas enjoying the beautiful shade trees.

I want to thank all SCLA members, and all llama and alpaca owners across the country, who are contributing their fiber to this cause. It turned out to be a great educational opportunity for everyone.

*Editor's Note:*

*The links listed in the article were no longer available. A quick "llama fiber Gulf Oil spill" search on google and I found plenty of information including a National Geographic video on YouTube.*



Fiber filled tubes



Booms with fiber filled tubes soaking up oil

# LLAMA ETHICS AND MENTORING

By Virginia Christensen

We will encompass a range of ethics in this discussion not only in relation to the animals in our care, but even after they leave our care and are placed in new homes and situations. Believe me, I am not so naive as to think we will always have control over any situation, but perhaps a little forethought and planning beforehand might help to ensure this animals will continue to have a worthwhile quality of life.

Living with llamas for sixteen years, I am no less enchanted with them today as I was when our first pair was delivered to us; a very hard to handle pregnant female and an adult male. We kept that pair together until we bought several other females in the ensuing months and then for awhile even kept the male with our small herd of females (something we do not do today).

Developing a good maintenance program, a feeding and mineral program which is consistent, good fencing to help discourage predator entry, adequate shelter and ample room, are only a few of the necessary obligations we must adhere to when committing ourselves. No less important is the responsibility of ethical breeding practices and sales. Not only do we need to warrant what we sell as a responsibility to those we sell to, but our first responsibility is to the animals we sell to do our best to ensure they will be well cared for.

The following are general requirements and should be a part of your routine:

## BASIC CARE AND PHYSICAL HEALTH

A general maintenance program should include a good hay or pasture, daily mineral supplement, (there are some excellent free choice as well as concentrated minerals), regular deworming program (depending on your area), boosters each year (you should ask your veterinarian and other breeders in your area what is needed), a clean and safe environment (daily cleaning of barn and pastures should be done to help in parasite and fly control), regular toenail trimming and shearing for comfort in the hotter months.

Llamas are intelligent, they are also stoic, and they can be very different in their daily behavior. Learn to recognize each llama's traits; in this way you can differentiate between one's normal behavior as opposed to any change in that behavior pattern and are more apt to catch a problem before it becomes major. While most llamas are eagerly awaiting their morning meal, another may take her time and stay recumbent for a period of time before she decides she wants to eat. If one who is first at the hay pile remains recumbent, that should put out a warning sign something might be wrong. Learn each llama's behavior pattern; they definitely have one.

**Be sure to keep adequate health and behavior records on each animal.** Included should be all preventative medications as well as breeding and birthing statistics. Record each breeding which took place and the length of gestation. Did your female have any symptoms of discomfort weeks before, when did she begin to bag up? Anything out of the ordinary prior, during and after pregnancy should be recorded.

## MENTAL HEALTH

One of the most important aspects of llama care and ethics is their mental well-being; there have been cases of healthy llamas dropping dead in an unusual or prolonged stress related situation. While some stress is naturally bound to happen, we should at least try and make our animals' daily lives as pleasant as possible. This includes living with other llamas, plenty of room to move about and isolate themselves from the rest of the herd if they wish to do so, (llamas are definite herd animals but do need their own space once in awhile), a regular feeding schedule, a place to cool off in the hot summer months, and adequate shelter with room enough for all to live together comfortably. Weaning time can be especially stressful to both mom and cria. We have found letting the moms wean their own babies (especially the female babies) works well. Since young males who mature early can become a problem trying out and/or accomplishing their breeding skills we will wean them in a separate pasture with one or two geldings. Most times, our youngsters are weaned by being sold and going to new homes. Some feel this is more stressful than weaning at home, however the pacing and crying by both mom and baby when they can see each other on the opposite side of the fence has always seemed more stressful to us. Usually when they got to a new environment, they settle in well by the the third day, and our moms generally aren't concerned for long when they leave. There are always the exceptions, of course, and sometimes we have to take each case on an individual basis. When we let our moms wean their own, the time frame varies; some wean fairly early, before six months while most average around seven to eight months, and we have found this works well and is less stressful on everyone, including us!

## MENTORING

You've made the sale, the money is in your pocket and the llama is off to his new home. Is this where your responsibility as a breeder ends? Don't you believe it! A lot of your sales are to brand new buyers, people who are still trying to learn about llamas and need all of the help they can get. We didn't know anything when we got our first pair and even after sixteen years, are still learning. It doesn't take much time to make a phone call once in awhile to see how all is going and to offer any assistance needed especially if the new buyers live in the same area. We try hard at our farm to get a "feel" about a prospective buyer. You can almost always tell when you take them out into the pasture if an animal the size of a llama will be intimidating to them or if they feel comfortable in their presence. Most buyers have never had any pet larger than a dog; some will readily be able to succeed in feeling right at home surrounded by a herd and there are others who probably never will be. If it is possible to distinguish this, then we can usually see the scenario of llamas left with halters on and/or ones never handled. It isn't always easy to foresee this in the future of the animals you sell but there are times when it is very obvious and when it is observable, these prospective buyers should either not own llamas, or a breeder's mentoring should be maximum. There are also some youngsters (ones too friendly or ones too high-strung) which should not be placed with inexperienced buyers.

**Remember, while not imperative, mentoring, especially to new buyers goes a long way in ensuring the continued well being of the llamas you sell.**

*Reprinted from a previous LANA Newsletter*

## Sierra 4-H Llama Project Turlock Christian FFA Club



**Kira Vessels** is a 12 year old intermediate youth showing PRL Beau, on loan from Greg and Diana Harford's Potato Ranch Llamas.



**Joseph Kuykendall** is a 15 year old senior youth involved in Turlock Christian's FFA program, showing McShaggy's El Tam, a gift from Arleen McCombs.



**Emily Muirhead**, a former 4-H'er, helps youth and is returning to the show ring.



**Audrey Roberson** is a 10 year old junior showing PRL McClure in her second year as a youth handler.

# STONEHENGE CLIPPER SHARPENING



Master Blade Wright  
Ralph Drew

*Have your blades sharpened by fiber people*

*Super Fast turn around*

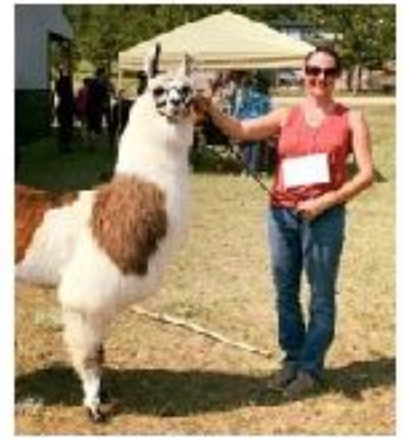
*rdrew76@yahoo.com*

*707-430-3452*

*ship usps priority mail*

*7621 Clement Road*

*Vacaville CA 95688*



# Black Cat Llamas

JOY PEDRONI & STEPHANIE PEDRONI



LOCATED IN VACAVILLE, CA, WE ARE LLAMA ENTHUSIASTS THAT ENJOY:

- *Competing with our small herd*
  - *Hiking with our animals*
- *Doing educational & fun public events*
- *Creating & selling llama related crafts*



# LAMARAH

Wilton, California  
Kathy Nichols



# Minimum Standards of Care for Llamas and Alpacas

Minimum Standards of Care are mandatory to llama and alpaca survival and humane treatment. These are the most basic requirements that all llamas and alpacas must have for physical well-being and, as such, define minimum requirements for animal control officers and government officials investigating questionable llama and alpaca care situations.

1. **WATER:** Animals should have continuous access to potable drinking water.
2. **NUTRITIONAL:** Animals should have nourishment adequate to sustain life and health.
3. **SHELTER:** Animals should have natural or man-made shelter that enables them to find relief from extreme weather conditions. The sheltered area must allow for the ability to stand, lie down, rest and reasonably move about.
4. **MOBILITY:** Animals should have a living area through which they can move freely and exercise independently
5. **NEGLECT:** Animals should have a physical appearance free from signs of serious neglect. Signs of serious neglect may include such things as crippled ambulation due to severely curled toenails, ingrown halters, or living conditions not meeting the minimums listed above.
6. **SAFETY:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from injury or death within their defined living environment and/or when traveling.
7. **CRUELTY:** Animals should be reasonably safeguarded from cruel treatment and actions that endanger life or health or cause avoidable suffering.
8. **SOCIALIZING:** Llamas and alpacas are herd animals and should not live alone without a companion animal. A cria (a baby llama or alpaca under six months) should not be removed or apart from other llamas or alpacas.

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Standards of Care Committees, June 2005  
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